REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Issue Date:	April 8, 2022		RFP# 301-22-094
Title:	On-line Remote Examination S	ervices	
Commodity Codes:	92091 Training, Computer Bas 92420 Examination and Testing		rted)
Issuing Agency:	Commonwealth of Virginia Virginia Department of Agricult Procurement Office 102 Governor Street Richmond, VA 23219	ure and Consumer S	Services
Initial Period of Contra	act: June 1, 2022 through May	31, 2023 (with four o	ne-year optional renewals)
	be received until 2:00 pm, ES ibed herein. All inquiries for info		April 27, 2022, for furnishing the bmitted in writing, via email, to:
	Kevin Steinbrecher CPPB, VCC Director, Procurement and Sup Telephone: 804-225-4887 Email: Kevin.steinbrecher@vda	port Services	
	or hand-delivered to the Issuing are not allowed and cannot be		dress shown above. Emailed, faxed, or
	STIONS: There will not be a prepayer listed above, no later than a		, so please submit questions concerning the
offers and agrees to fur upon by subsequent ne	nish all goods and services in a	ccordance with the a firm hereby certifies	posed in this RFP, the undersigned firm hereby attached signed proposal or as mutually agreed that all information provided below and in any
Name and Address of F	Firm:		
		Date:	
		Name:	(Please Print)
	Zip Code	Title:	
eVA Vendor ID or DUN	S #	Phone: ()	

Note: This public body does not discriminate against faith-based organizations in accordance with the *Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4343.1 or against a bidder or offeror because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, or veteran status or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment. Faith-based organizations may request that the issuing agency not include subparagraph 1.e in General Terms and Condition C. Such a request shall be in writing and explain why an exception should be made in that invitation to bid or request for proposal.

Fax: (____) ____

RETURN ALL PAGES ALONG WITH YOUR ORIGINAL PROPOSAL (Tab 1)

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES TABLE OF CONTENTS RFP# 301-22-094

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I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Request For Proposals (RFP) is to solicit proposals to establish a contract with one offeror to provide On-line Remote Examination Services for the Office of Pesticide Services (OPS), of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

II. BACKGROUND

- A. VDACS was established in 1877 to promote the economic growth and development of Virginia agriculture, provide consumer protection, and encourage environmental stewardship. The agency is headquartered in Richmond, Virginia and has several field offices, four regional diagnostic animal health laboratories, and two Farmer's Market facilities.
- B. The OPS certifies pesticide applicators, registers pesticide products and licenses pesticide businesses. OPS also conducts inspections and investigations to ensure the proper use of pesticides. These activities provide for the safe and effective control of pests that attack our crops, structures, and health.
- C. The OPS is responsible for ensuring that certified pesticide applicators in Virginia meet minimum standards of knowledge, skills, and abilities concerning the safe application of pesticides in order to protect the environment and the health of the citizens of the Commonwealth.
- D. The use of written exams is the method established by the Virginia Pesticide Control Act for ensuring minimum competency for the purposes of certification. Currently, most pesticide certification exams consist of 50 multiple-choice questions selected from seven areas of pesticide knowledge held in question databanks that are either general pesticide knowledge or specific to certain types of pesticide application. All exam questions are reviewed for technical adequacy and for content validity against approved pesticide applicator training materials. The exams are currently administered through touch-screen computers located at Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Customer Service Centers or they may be administered in written form by OPS staff or other approved proctors. OPS seeks to provide an on-line remote option for the examination.
- E. There has not been a previous solicitation or contract for these services. The initial examinations shall be for Pesticide Applicator Certification and Pesticide Business Licensing but the agency reserves the right to utilize this Contract for future topics if they arise.

III. STATEMENT OF NEEDS

A. Specific Requirements:

VDACS is seeking proposals offering a solution of providing an on-line remote option for examinations that determine minimum competency in Virginia's pesticide laws and regulations and in basic pesticide labeling, application techniques, and safe handling, taking into consideration the following:

1. Offerors shall be able to provide services that allow for an individual ("Examinee") to take a VDACS examination ("Exam") online. The Examinee will be responsible for any costs or fees to utilize the online system and no charges shall be levied to VDACS.

- 2. Offerors shall have the staff, supervision, and expertise to provide the services.
- 3. The Awarded Offeror shall provide all technical support to examinee for online remote testing.
- 4. The online service shall include security precautions ensuring the integrity of the exam questions and ensuring the examinee that is registered to take the Exam is the individual who is authorized to take the Exam.
- 5. The Awarded Offeror will be responsible for providing exam integrity and security precautions during the Exam that should include, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. Identification screen using facial recognition;
 - b. Proctoring of the Exam;
 - c. Room screens to ensure there is no one else in the rooms;
 - d. Artificial Intelligence (AI) or live capabilities to recognize possible cheating during the Exam. If AI is used, session must be monitored/reviewed by a live individual to flag actions;
 - e. Limits on examinee actions when taking the Exam (no screenshots, more than one window open etc.);
 - f. A timed Exam;
 - g. A platform that holds exam questions;
 - h. The ability to collect fees or "shut off fee collection";
 - Expeditious turnaround time to receive exam results, preferably within twenty-four 24 hours, unless other timelines are agreed upon by VDACS depending on the type of Exam or Situation.
- 6. The Awarded Offeror shall be responsible to deliver the Exam to the Examinee and provide instructions explaining how to take the Exam along with any other information VDACS deems necessary.
- 7. The Awarded Offeror shall add or remove Exams upon request from VDACS and within an agreed upon time.
- 8. The Awarded Offeror shall be responsible for proctoring the exam for every Examinee that requests remote testing.
- 9. The Awarded Offeror shall be responsible for ensuring the provisions of the examinee's notice of authorization to take the exam are met, for example, only those Exams for which the examinee has been approved are accessible and can be taken and all Exams are to be taken during one sitting.
- 10. Offerors shall have the ability to provide reporting that should include, at a minimum, the following:
 - a. Exam results reporting within the agreed upon time.
 - b. A report which indicates which questions were answered incorrectly.

- c. A report which indicates if a particular question on the exam is often answered incorrectly.
- d. A report of the number of Exams taken by category.
- e. A report of the pass fail rates for all Exams by category.
- 11. The Awarded Offeror shall make access available to VDACS to update or revise Exam questions.
- 12. The Awarded Offeror shall score each Exam upon completion and provide preliminary score to VDACS and the examinee. Scores shall not be provided to the examinee if the Exam is flagged due to security issues, i.e. potential cheating.
- 13. The Awarded Offeror shall provide access to VDACS to the online remote testing application to test the content and accessibility.
- 14. **Confidentiality:** Due to examination security, the Awarded Offeror shall consider all exam questions and any related materials to be confidential and shall not disclose or provide questions or answers, to anyone other than VDACS, while performing the services.

B. General Requirements:

- 1. Offerors shall be a business regularly engaged and skilled in providing online remote examination services as described in this solicitation.
- 2. The Awarded Offeror shall furnish all of the resources to provide the services.
- 3. It is expected that the Awarded Offeror shall perform all work under this contract with the Offeror's own work force and will not subcontract any portion of the work. Offerors must clearly describe and provide details in their submission of any subcontracting proposed in providing the services.
- 4. Offerors may submit a copy of their standard agreement or terms and conditions as a separate attachment for review if required to be incorporated in a contract for services.

C. Pricing:

- Offerors shall complete and submit the Attachment B. Proposed Cost Schedule with the proposal. Though VDACS will not be responsible for any charges when Examinees utilize the online system, the cost charged to the Examinees will be evaluated. Refer to V. EVALUATION CRITERIA.
- 2. List any additional services and associated costs on the Attachment B that may be offered for consideration. Please note, they will not be evaluated per V. EVALUATION CRITERIA.

IV. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- A. <u>RFP RESPONSE:</u> In order to be considered for selection, offerors must submit a complete response to this RFP. **One (1) original hard copy (paper)** of the entire proposal clearly marked "Original" on the outside, and **three (3) copies**, so marked, must be submitted to the VDACS Procurement office. No other distribution of the proposal shall be made by the offeror.
- B. If applicable, the outside of the proposal must be marked to denote proprietary information.

1. **PROPOSAL PREPARATION**:

- a. Proposals shall be signed by an authorized representative of the Offeror. All information requested should be submitted. Failure to submit all information requested may result in the purchasing agency requiring prompt submission of missing information and/or giving a lowered evaluation of the proposal. Proposals that are substantially incomplete or lack key information may be rejected by the purchasing agency. Mandatory requirements are those required by law or regulation or are such that they cannot be waived and are not subject to negotiation.
- b. Proposals should be prepared simply and economically, providing a straightforward, concise description of capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be placed on completeness and clarity of content.
- c. Proposals should be organized in the order in which the requirements are presented in the RFP. All pages of the proposal should be numbered. Each paragraph in the proposal should reference the paragraph number of the corresponding section of the RFP. It is also helpful to cite the paragraph number and sub letter and to repeat the text of the requirement as it appears in the RFP. If a response covers more than one page, the paragraph number and sub letter should be repeated at the top of the next page. The proposal should contain a table of contents that cross references the RFP requirements. Information that the offeror desires to present that does not fall within any of the requirements of the RFP should be inserted at an appropriate place or be attached at the end of the proposal and designated as additional material. Proposals that are not organized in this manner risk elimination from consideration if the evaluators are unable to find where the RFP requirements are specifically addressed.
- d. As used in this RFP, the terms "must", "shall", "should" and "may" identify the criticality of requirements. "Must" and "shall" identify requirements whose absence will have a major negative impact on the suitability of the proposed solution. Items labeled as "should" or "may" are highly desirable. Although their absence will not have a large impact and would be useful, but are not necessary. Depending on the overall response to the RFP, some individual "must" and "shall" items may not be fully satisfied, but it is the intent to satisfy most, if not all, "must" and "shall" requirements. The inability of an Offeror to satisfy a "must" or "shall" requirement does not automatically remove that Offeror from consideration; however, it may seriously affect the overall rating of the Offerors' proposal.

- Each copy of the proposal should be bound or contained in a single volume where
 practical. All documentation submitted with the proposal should be contained in that
 single volume.
- f. Ownership of all data, materials, and documentation originated and prepared for the State pursuant to the RFP shall belong exclusively to the State and be subject to public inspection in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Trade secrets or proprietary information submitted by an offeror shall not be subject to public disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, however, the offeror must invoke the protections of § 2.2-4342F of the Code of Virginia, in writing, either before or at the time the data or other material is submitted. The written notice must specifically identify the data or materials to be protected and state the reasons why protection is necessary. The proprietary or trade secret material submitted must be identified by some distinct method such as highlighting or underlining and must indicate only the specific words, figures, or paragraphs that constitute trade secret or proprietary information. The classification of an entire proposal document or prequalification application, line-item prices, and/or total proposal prices as proprietary or trade secrets is not acceptable and will result in rejection of the proposal. If, after being given reasonable time, the offeror refuses to withdraw an entire classification designation, the proposal will be rejected.
- 2. <u>Oral Presentation</u>: Offerors who submit a proposal in response to this RFP may be required to give an oral presentation of their proposal to the agency. This provides an opportunity for the offeror to clarify or elaborate on the proposal. This is a fact-finding and explanation session only and does not include negotiation. The issuing agency will schedule the time and location of these presentations. Oral presentations are an option of the purchasing agency and may or may not be conducted.
- C. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF PROPOSAL: Proposals should be as thorough and detailed as possible so that the Agency evaluation team may properly evaluate your capabilities to provide the required services. Offerors are required to submit the following items as a complete proposal. The proposal response must be submitted in the same order as outlined below, to include the same "TAB" headings.
 - Tab 1. Return of the RFP cover sheet and all addenda acknowledgments, if any, signed and filled out as required.
 - Tab 2. Offeror Data Sheet (Attachment A), Proposed Cost Schedule (Attachment B).
 - Tab 3. The Offeror's Plan and Approach for providing the services. The response should address each section in the III. Statement of Needs as outlined in A. Specific Requirements and B. General Requirements.
 - Tab 4. The Offeror's Experience and Qualifications to include, but not limited, to the following:
 - a. Describe the experience of the company including the number of years in business and any specialties.
 - b. Identify and describe the experience and expertise level of the staff that will be administering the online exams.
 - c. Describe your firm's success in providing the services in scope to what is requested in this solicitation.
 - d. If available, provide feedback from other clients supporting the skill of your firm's staff.

- Tab 5. Small Business Subcontracting Plan Summarize the planned utilization of DSBSD-certified small businesses under the contract to be awarded as a result of this solicitation. Submit both pages of Attachment C.
- Tab 6. State Corporation Commission Form, submit Attachment D.
- Tab 7. Exceptions, submit Attachment E: Does your Firm accept Section III, "STATEMENT OF NEEDS", Section VI, the "GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS", and Section VII, the "SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS," as presented in the RFP?

V. EVALUATION CRITERIA

A. Evaluation Criteria: Proposals shall be evaluated using the following criteria:

CATEGORY	POINT VALUE
Plans and approach for providing the services.	35
Experience and qualifications of the firm and assigned personnel.	25
Cost of Services	20
Small Business Subcontracting Plan	20

VI. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. <u>VENDORS MANUAL</u>: This solicitation is subject to the provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia *Vendors Manual* and any changes or revisions thereto, which are hereby incorporated into this contract in their entirety. The process for filing a complaint about this solicitation is in section 7.13 of the *Vendors Manual*. (Note section 7.13 does not apply to protests of awards or formal contractual claims.) The procedure for filing contractual claims is in section 7.19 of the *Vendors Manual*. A copy of the manual is normally available for review at the purchasing office and is accessible on the Internet at <u>www.eva.virginia.gov</u> under "I Sell To Virginia".
- B. <u>APPLICABLE LAWS AND COURTS</u>: This solicitation and any resulting contract shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, without regard to its choice of law provisions, and any litigation with respect thereto shall be brought in the circuit courts of the Commonwealth. The agency and the contractor are encouraged to resolve any issues in controversy arising from the award of the contract or any contractual dispute using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) procedures (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4366). ADR procedures are described in Chapter 9 of the *Vendors Manual*. The contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations.
- C. <u>ANTI-DISCRIMINATION</u>: By submitting their (bids/proposals), (bidders/offerors) certify to the Commonwealth that they will conform to the provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, as well as the Virginia Fair Employment Contracting Act of 1975, as amended, where applicable, the Virginians With Disabilities Act, the Americans With Disabilities Act and § 2.2-4311 of the Virginia Public Procurement Act (VPPA). If the award is made to a faith-based organization, the organization shall not discriminate against any recipient of goods, services, or disbursements made pursuant to the contract on the basis of the recipient's religion, religious belief, refusal to participate in a religious practice, or on the basis of race, age, color, gender sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin and shall be subject to the same rules as other organizations that contract with public

bodies to account for the use of the funds provided; however, if the faith-based organization segregates public funds into separate accounts, only the accounts and programs funded with public funds shall be subject to audit by the public body. (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4343.1E).

In every contract over \$10,000 the provisions in 1. and 2. below apply:

- 1. During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:
 - a. The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment, except where there is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.
 - b. The contractor, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, will state that such contractor is an equal opportunity employer.
 - c. Notices, advertisements and solicitations placed in accordance with federal law, rule or regulation shall be deemed sufficient for the purpose of meeting the requirements of this section.
 - d. If the contractor employs more than five employees, the contractor shall (i) provide annual training on the contractor's sexual harassment policy to all supervisors and employees providing services in the Commonwealth, except such supervisors or employees that are required to complete sexual harassment training provided by the Department of Human Resource Management, and (ii) post the contractor's sexual harassment policy in (a) a conspicuous public place in each building located in the Commonwealth that the contractor owns or leases for business purposes and (b) the contractor's employee handbook.
 - e. The requirements of these provisions 1. and 2. are a material part of the contract. If the Contractor violates one of these provisions, the Commonwealth may terminate the affected part of this contract for breach, or at its option, the whole contract. Violation of one of these provisions may also result in debarment from State contracting regardless of whether the specific contract is terminated.
 - f. In accordance with Executive Order 61 (2017), a prohibition on discrimination by the contractor, in its employment practices, subcontracting practices, and delivery of goods or services, on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation, disability, or veteran status, is hereby incorporated in this contract.
- 2. The contractor will include the provisions of 1. above in every subcontract or purchase order over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.
- D. <u>ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING</u>: By submitting their (bids/proposals), (bidders/offerors) certify that their (bids/proposals) are made without collusion or fraud and that they have not offered or received any kickbacks or inducements from any other (bidder/offeror), supplier, manufacturer or subcontractor in connection with their (bid/proposal), and that they have not conferred on any public employee having official responsibility for this procurement transaction any payment, loan, subscription, advance, deposit of money, services or anything of more than nominal value, present or promised, unless consideration of substantially equal or greater value was exchanged.
- E. <u>IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1986</u>: Applicable for all contracts over \$10,000: By entering into a written contract with the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Contractor certifies that the Contractor does not, and shall not during the performance of the contract for goods and services in the Commonwealth, knowingly employ an unauthorized alien as defined in the federal Immigration Reform and

Control Act of 1986.

- F. <u>DEBARMENT STATUS</u>: By participating in this procurement, the vendor certifies that they are not currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia from submitting a response for the type of goods and/or services covered by this solicitation. Vendor further certifies that they are not debarred from filling any order or accepting any resulting order, or that they are an agent of any person or entity that is currently debarred by the Commonwealth of Virginia.
 - If a vendor is created or used for the purpose of circumventing a debarment decision against another vendor, the non-debarred vendor will be debarred for the same time period as the debarred vendor.
- G. <u>ANTITRUST</u>: By entering into a contract, the contractor conveys, sells, assigns, and transfers to the Commonwealth of Virginia all rights, title and interest in and to all causes of action it may now have or hereafter acquire under the antitrust laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, relating to the particular goods or services purchased or acquired by the Commonwealth of Virginia under said contract.
- H. MANDATORY USE OF STATE FORM AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR IFBs AND RFPs: Failure to submit a proposal on the official state form provided for that purpose may be a cause for rejection of the proposal. Modification of or additions to the General Terms and Conditions of the solicitation may be cause for rejection of the proposal; however, the Commonwealth reserves the right to decide, on a case by case basis, in its sole discretion, whether to reject such a proposal.
- I. <u>CLARIFICATION OF TERMS</u>: If any prospective (bidder/offeror) has questions about the specifications or other solicitation documents, the prospective (bidder/offeror) should contact the buyer whose name appears on the face of the solicitation no later than five working days before the due date. Any revisions to the solicitation will be made only by addendum issued by the buyer.

J. PAYMENT:

1. To Prime Contractor:

- a. Invoices for items ordered, delivered, and accepted shall be submitted by the contractor directly to the payment address shown on the purchase order/contract. All invoices shall show the state contract number and/or purchase order number; social security number (for individual contractors), or the federal employer identification number (for proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations).
- b. Any payment terms requiring payment in less than 30 days will be regarded as requiring payment 30 days after invoice or delivery, whichever occurs last. This shall not affect offers of discounts for payment in less than 30 days, however.
- c. All goods or services provided under this contract or purchase order that are to be paid for with public funds shall be billed by the contractor at the contract price, regardless of which public agency is being billed.
- d. The following shall be deemed to be the date of payment: the date of postmark in all cases where payment is made by mail, or when offset proceedings have been instituted as authorized under the Virginia Debt Collection Act.
- e. **Unreasonable Charges**. Under certain emergency procurements and for most time and material purchases, final job costs cannot be accurately determined at the time orders are placed. In such cases, contractors should be put on notice that final payment in full is contingent on a determination of reasonableness with respect to all invoiced charges. Charges which appear to

be unreasonable will be resolved in accordance with *Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4363 and 2.2-4364. Upon determining that invoiced charges are not reasonable, the Commonwealth shall notify the contractor of defects or improprieties in invoices within fifteen (15) days as required in *Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4351. The provisions of this section do not relieve an agency of its prompt payment obligations with respect to those charges which are not in dispute (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4363).

2. To Subcontractors:

- a. Within seven (7) days of the contractor's receipt of payment from the Commonwealth, a contractor awarded a contract under this solicitation is hereby obligated:
 - (1) To pay the subcontractor(s) for the proportionate share of the payment received for work performed by the subcontractor(s) under the contract; or
 - (2) To notify the agency and the subcontractor(s), in writing, of the contractor's intention to withhold payment and the reason.
- b. The contractor is obligated to pay the subcontractor(s) interest at the rate of one percent per month (unless otherwise provided under the terms of the contract) on all amounts owed by the contractor that remain unpaid seven (7) days following receipt of payment from the Commonwealth, except for amounts withheld as stated in (2) above. The date of mailing of any payment by U. S. Mail is deemed to be payment to the addressee. These provisions apply to each sub-tier contractor performing under the primary contract. A contractor's obligation to pay an interest charge to a subcontractor may not be construed to be an obligation of the Commonwealth.
- 3. Each prime contractor who wins an award in which provision of a SWAM procurement plan is a condition to the award, shall deliver to the contracting agency or institution, on or before request for final payment, evidence and certification of compliance (subject only to insubstantial shortfalls and to shortfalls arising from subcontractor default) with the SWAM procurement plan. Final payment under the contract in question may be withheld until such certification is delivered and, if necessary, confirmed by the agency or institution, or other appropriate penalties may be assessed in lieu of withholding such payment.
- 4. The Commonwealth of Virginia encourages contractors and subcontractors to accept electronic and credit card payments.
- K. PRECEDENCE OF TERMS: The following General Terms and Conditions VENDORS MANUAL, APPLICABLE LAWS AND COURTS, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION, ETHICS IN PUBLIC CONTRACTING, IMMIGRATION REFORM AND CONTROL ACT OF 1986, DEBARMENT STATUS, ANTITRUST, MANDATORY USE OF STATE FORM AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS, CLARIFICATION OF TERMS, PAYMENT shall apply in all instances. In the event there is a conflict between any of the other General Terms and Conditions and any Special Terms and Conditions in this solicitation, the Special Terms and Conditions shall apply.
- L. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFERORS: The Commonwealth may make such reasonable investigations as deemed proper and necessary to determine the ability of the (bidder/offeror) to perform the services/furnish the goods and the (bidder/offeror) shall furnish to the Commonwealth all such information and data for this purpose as may be requested. The Commonwealth reserves the right to inspect (bidder's/offeror's) physical facilities prior to award to satisfy questions regarding the (bidder's/offeror's) capabilities. The Commonwealth further reserves the right to reject any (bid/proposal) if the evidence submitted by, or investigations of, such (bidder/offeror) fails to satisfy the Commonwealth that such

(bidder/offeror) is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to provide the services and/or furnish the goods contemplated therein.

- M. <u>TESTING AND INSPECTION</u>: The Commonwealth reserves the right to conduct any test/inspection it may deem advisable to assure goods and services conform to the specifications.
- N. **ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT**: A contract shall not be assignable by the contractor in whole or in part without the written consent of the Commonwealth.
- O. **CHANGES TO THE CONTRACT**: Changes can be made to the contract in any of the following ways:
 - 1. The parties may agree in writing to modify the terms, conditions, or scope of the contract. Any additional goods or services to be provided shall be of a sort that is ancillary to the contract goods or services, or within the same broad product or service categories as were included in the contract award. Any increase or decrease in the price of the contract resulting from such modification shall be agreed to by the parties as a part of their written agreement to modify the scope of the contract.
 - 2. The Purchasing Agency may order changes within the general scope of the contract at any time by written notice to the contractor. Changes within the scope of the contract include, but are not limited to, things such as services to be performed, the method of packing or shipment, and the place of delivery or installation. The contractor shall comply with the notice upon receipt, unless the contractor intends to claim an adjustment to compensation, schedule, or other contractual impact that would be caused by complying with such notice, in which case the contractor shall, in writing, promptly notify the Purchasing Agency of the adjustment to be sought, and before proceeding to comply with the notice, shall await the Purchasing Agency's written decision affirming, modifying, or revoking the prior written notice. If the Purchasing Agency decides to issue a notice that requires an adjustment to compensation, the contractor shall be compensated for any additional costs incurred as the result of such order and shall give the Purchasing Agency a credit for any savings. Said compensation shall be determined by one of the following methods:
 - a. By mutual agreement between the parties in writing; or
 - b. By agreeing upon a unit price or using a unit price set forth in the contract, if the work to be done can be expressed in units, and the contractor accounts for the number of units of work performed, subject to the Purchasing Agency's right to audit the contractor's records and/or to determine the correct number of units independently; or
 - c. By ordering the contractor to proceed with the work and keep a record of all costs incurred and savings realized. A markup for overhead and profit may be allowed if provided by the contract. The same markup shall be used for determining a decrease in price as the result of savings realized. The contractor shall present the Purchasing Agency with all vouchers and records of expenses incurred and savings realized. The Purchasing Agency shall have the right to audit the records of the contractor as it deems necessary to determine costs or savings. Any claim for an adjustment in price under this provision must be asserted by written notice to the Purchasing Agency within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the written order from the Purchasing Agency. If the parties fail to agree on an amount of adjustment, the question of an increase or decrease in the contract price or time for performance shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures for resolving disputes provided by the Disputes Clause of this contract or, if there is none, in accordance with the disputes provisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia Vendors Manual. Neither the existence of a claim nor a dispute resolution process, litigation or any other provision of this contract shall excuse the contractor from promptly complying with the changes ordered by the Purchasing Agency or with the performance of the contract generally.
- P. <u>DEFAULT</u>: In case of failure to deliver goods or services in accordance with the contract terms and conditions, the Commonwealth, after due oral or written notice, may procure them from other sources and

hold the contractor responsible for any resulting additional purchase and administrative costs. This remedy shall be in addition to any other remedies which the Commonwealth may have.

- Q. <u>ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD</u>: Upon the award or the announcement of the decision to award a contract as a result of this solicitation, the purchasing agency will publicly post such notice on the DGS/DPS eVA VBO (www.eva.virginia.gov) for a minimum of 10 days.
- R. <u>DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE:</u> Applicable for all contracts over \$10,000:During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees to (i) provide a drug- free workplace for the contractor's employees; (ii) post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance or marijuana is prohibited in the contractor's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition; (iii) state in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor that the contractor maintains a drug-free workplace; and (iv) include the provisions of the foregoing clauses in every subcontract or purchase order of over \$10,000, so that the provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor.

For the purposes of this section, "drug-free workplace" means a site for the performance of work done in connection with a specific contract awarded to a contractor, the employees of whom are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of any controlled substance or marijuana during the performance of the contract.

- S. NONDISCRIMINATION OF CONTRACTORS: A bidder, offeror, or contractor shall not be discriminated against in the solicitation or award of this contract because of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, faith-based organizational status, any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment or because the bidder or offeror employs ex-offenders unless the state agency, department or institution has made a written determination that employing ex-offenders on the specific contract is not in its best interest. If the award of this contract is made to a faith-based organization and an individual, who applies for or receives goods, services, or disbursements provided pursuant to this contract objects to the religious character of the faith-based organization from which the individual receives or would receive the goods, services, or disbursements, the public body shall offer the individual, within a reasonable period of time after the date of his objection, access to equivalent goods, services, or disbursements from an alternative provider.
- T. eVA BUSINESS-TO-GOVERNMENT VENDOR REGISTRATION, CONTRACTS, AND ORDERS: The eVA Internet electronic procurement solution, website portal www.eVA.virginia.gov, streamlines and automates government purchasing activities in the Commonwealth. The eVA portal is the gateway for vendors to conduct business with state agencies and public bodies. All vendors desiring to provide goods and/or services to the Commonwealth shall participate in the eVA Internet eprocurement solution by completing the free eVA Vendor Registration. All offerors must register in eVA and pay the Vendor Transaction Fees specified below; failure to register will result in the proposal being rejected.

Vendor transaction fees are determined by the date the original purchase order is issued and the current fees are as follows:

- a. For orders issued July 1, 2014 and after, the Vendor Transaction Fee is:
 - (i) DMBE-certified Small Businesses: 1%, capped at \$500 per order.
 - (ii) Businesses that are not DMBE-certified Small Businesses: 1%, capped at \$1,500 per order.
- b. Refer to Special Term and Condition "eVA Orders and Contracts" to identify the number of purchase orders that will be issued as a result of this solicitation/contract with the eVA transaction fee specified above assessed for each order.

For orders issued prior to July 1, 2014 the vendor transaction fees can be found at www.eVA.virginia.gov.

The specified vendor transaction fee will be invoiced, by the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of General Services, typically within 60 days of the order issue date. Any adjustments (increases/decreases) will be handled through purchase order changes.

- U. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** It is understood and agreed between the parties herein that the agency shall be bound hereunder only to the extent that the legislature has appropriated funds that are legally available or may hereafter become legally available for the purpose of this agreement.
- V. SET-ASIDES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT AWARD PRIORITY. This solicitation is set-aside for award priority to DSBSD-certified micro businesses or small businesses when designated as "Micro Business Set-Aside Award Priority" accordingly in the solicitation. DSBSD-certified micro businesses or small businesses also include DSBSD-certified women-owned and minority-owned businesses when they have received the DSBSD small businesses certification. For purposes of award, bidders/offerors shall be deemed micro businesses or small businesses if and only if they are certified as such by DSBSD on the due date for receipt of bids/proposals.
- W. <u>BID PRICE CURRENCY</u>: Unless stated otherwise in the solicitation, offerors shall state offer prices in US dollars
- X. AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN THE COMMONWEALTH: A contractor organized as a stock or nonstock corporation, limited liability company, business trust, or limited partnership or registered as a registered limited liability partnership shall be authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth as a domestic or foreign business entity if so required by Title 13.1 or Title 50 of the Code of Virginia or as otherwise required by law. Any business entity described above that enters into a contract with a public body pursuant to the Virginia Public Procurement Act shall not allow its existence to lapse or its certificate of authority or registration to transact business in the Commonwealth, if so required under Title 13.1 or Title 50, to be revoked or cancelled at any time during the term of the contract. A public body may void any contract with a business entity if the business entity fails to remain in compliance with the provisions of this section.
- Y. <u>CIVILITY IN STATE WORKPLACES</u>: The contractor shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that no individual, while performing work on behalf of the contractor or any subcontractor in connection with this agreement (each, a "Contract Worker"), shall engage in 1) harassment (including sexual harassment), bullying, cyber-bullying, or threatening or violent conduct, or 2) discriminatory behavior on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, political affiliation, veteran status, or disability.

The contractor shall provide each Contract Worker with a copy of this Section and will require Contract Workers to participate in agency training on civility in the State workplace if contractor's (and any subcontractor's) regular mandatory training programs do not already encompass equivalent or greater expectations. Upon request, the contractor shall provide documentation that each Contract Worker has received such training.

For purposes of this Section, "State workplace" includes any location, permanent or temporary, where a Commonwealth employee performs any work-related duty or is representing his or her agency, as well as surrounding perimeters, parking lots, outside meeting locations, and means of travel to and from these locations. Communications are deemed to occur in a State workplace if the Contract Worker reasonably should know that the phone number, email, or other method of communication is associated with a State workplace or is associated with a person who is a State employee.

The Commonwealth of Virginia may require, at its sole discretion, the removal and replacement of any Contract Worker who the Commonwealth reasonably believes to have violated this Section.

This Section creates obligations solely on the part of the contractor. Employees or other third parties may benefit incidentally from this Section and from training materials or other communications distributed on this topic, but the Parties to this agreement intend this Section to be enforceable solely by the Commonwealth and not by employees or other third parties.

VII. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- A. <u>AUDIT</u>: The contractor shall retain all books, records, and other documents relative to this contract for five (5) years after final payment, or until audited by the Commonwealth of Virginia, whichever is sooner. The agency, its authorized agents, and/or state auditors shall have full access to and the right to examine any of said materials during said period.
- B. AWARD: Selection shall be made of two or more offerors deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposals on the basis of the evaluation factors included in the Request for Proposals, including price, if so stated in the Request for Proposals. Negotiations shall be conducted with the offerors so selected. Price shall be considered, but need not be the sole determining factor. After negotiations have been conducted with each offeror so selected, the agency shall select the offeror which, in its opinion, has made the best proposal, and shall award the contract to that offeror. The Commonwealth may cancel this Request for Proposals or reject proposals at any time prior to an award, and is not required to furnish a statement of the reasons why a particular proposal was not deemed to be the most advantageous (*Code of Virginia*, § 2.2-4359D). Should the Commonwealth determine in writing and in its sole discretion that only one offeror is fully qualified, or that one offeror is clearly more highly qualified than the others under consideration, a contract may be negotiated and awarded to that offeror. The award document will be a contract incorporating by reference all the requirements, terms and conditions of the solicitation and the contractor's proposal as negotiated.
- C. <u>CANCELLATION OF CONTRACT</u>: The purchasing agency reserves the right to cancel and terminate any resulting contract, in part or in whole, without penalty, upon 60 days written notice to the contractor. In the event the initial contract period is for more than 12 months, the resulting contract may also be terminated by the contractor, without penalty, after the initial 12 months of the contract period upon 60 days written notice to the other party. Any contract cancellation notice shall not relieve the contractor of the obligation to deliver and/or perform on all outstanding orders issued prior to the effective date of cancellation.
- D. <u>eVA ORDERS AND CONTRACTS</u>: It is anticipated the solicitation/contract will not result in any purchase order(s) annually with the applicable eVA transaction fee assessed for each order. If a purchase order is required, the applicable eVA transaction fee will be assessed for each order.

Vendors desiring to provide goods and/or services to the Commonwealth shall participate in the eVA Internet e-procurement solution and agree to comply with the following: If this solicitation is for a term contract, failure to provide an electronic catalog (price list) or index page catalog for items awarded will be just cause for the Commonwealth to reject your bid/offer or terminate this contract for default. The format of this electronic catalog shall conform to the eVA Catalog Interchange Format (CIF) Specification that can be accessed and downloaded from www.eVA.virginia.gov. Contractors should email Catalog or Index Page information to eVA-catalog-manager@dgs.virginia.gov.

E. **RENEWAL OF CONTRACT**: This contract may be renewed by the Commonwealth upon written agreement of both parties for four (4) successive one-year periods under the terms of the current contract

and at a reasonable time (approximately 90 days) prior to the expiration of the contract.

F. SUBMISSION OF SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN, EVIDENCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING PLAN, AND SUBCONTRACTOR REPORTING:

- A. Submission of Small Business Subcontracting Plan: It is the goal of the Commonwealth that 42% of its purchases be made from small businesses. This includes discretionary spending in prime contracts and subcontracts. All bidders/offerors are required to submit a Small Business Subcontracting Plan. The contractor is encouraged to offer such subcontracting opportunities to DSBSD-certified small businesses. This shall include DSBSD-certified women-owned and minority-owned businesses when they have received DSBSD small business certification. Where it is not practicable for any portion of the goods/services to be subcontracted to other suppliers, the bidder/offeror shall note such on the Small Business Subcontracting Plan. No bidder/offeror or subcontractor shall be considered a small business unless certified as such by the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (DSBSD) by the due date for receipt of bids or proposals.
- B. Evidence of Compliance with Small Business Subcontracting Plan: Each prime contractor who wins an award in which provision of a small business subcontracting plan is a condition of the award, shall deliver to the contracting agency or institution timely reports substantiating compliance in accordance with the small business subcontracting plan. If a variance exists, the contractor shall provide a written explanation. A subcontractor shall be considered a Small Business for purposes of a contract if and only if the subcontractor holds a certification as such by the DSBSD. Payment(s) may be withheld until the purchasing agency confirms that the contractor has certified compliance with the contractor's submitted Small Business Subcontracting Plan or is in receipt of a written explanation of the variance. The agency or institution reserves the right to pursue other appropriate remedies for non-compliance to include, but not be limited to, termination for default.
- C. Prime Contractor Subcontractor Reporting:
 - 1. Each prime contractor who wins an award greater than \$100,000, shall deliver to the contracting agency or institution on a quarterly basis, information on use of subcontractors that are DSBSD-certified businesses or ESOs. The contractor agrees to furnish the purchasing office at a minimum the following information: name of firm, phone number, total dollar amount subcontracted, category type (Businesses that are DSBSD-certified small, women-owned, minority-owned, Service Disabled Veteran, or Employment Services Organization) and type of product/service provided, at the frequency required.
 - 2. In addition each prime contractor who wins an award greater than \$200,000 shall deliver to the contracting agency or institution on a quarterly basis, information on use of subcontractors that are <u>not</u> DSBSD-certified businesses. The contractor agrees to furnish the purchasing office at a minimum the following information: name of firm, phone number, total dollar amount subcontracted and type of product/service provided, at the frequency required.
- G. PRIME CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES: The contractor shall be responsible for completely supervising and directing the work under this contract and all subcontractors that he may utilize, using his best skill and attention. Subcontractors who perform work under this contract shall be responsible to the prime contractor. The contractor agrees that he is as fully responsible for the acts and omissions of his subcontractors and of persons employed by them as he is for the acts and omissions of his own employees.
- H. <u>SUBCONTRACTS</u>: No portion of the work shall be subcontracted without prior written consent of the purchasing agency. In the event that the contractor desires to subcontract some part of the work specified

herein, the contractor shall furnish the purchasing agency the names, qualifications and experience of their proposed subcontractors. The contractor shall, however, remain fully liable and responsible for the work to be done by its subcontractor(s) and shall assure compliance with all requirements of the contract.

- I. STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, §2.2-4311.2 subsection B, an offeror organized or authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth pursuant to Title 13.1 or Title 50 is required to include in its proposal the identification number issued to it by the State Corporation Commission (SCC). Any offeror that is not required to be authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth as a foreign business entity under Title 13.1 or Title 50 or as otherwise required by law is required to include in its proposal a statement describing why the offeror is not required to be so authorized. Indicate the above information on the SCC Form provided. Contractor agrees that the process by which compliance with Titles 13.1 and 50 is checked during the solicitation stage (including without limitation the SCC Form provided) is streamlined and not definitive, and the Commonwealth's use and acceptance of such form, or its acceptance of Contractor's statement describing why the offeror was not legally required to be authorized to transact business in the Commonwealth, shall not be conclusive of the issue and shall not be relied upon by the Contractor as demonstrating compliance.
- J. <u>E-VERIFY PROGRAM</u>: EFFECTIVE 12/1/13. Pursuant to *Code of Virginia*, §2.2-4308.2., any employer with more than an average of 50 employees for the previous 12 months entering into a contract in excess of \$50,000 with any agency of the Commonwealth to perform work or provide services pursuant to such contract shall register and participate in the E-Verify program to verify information and work authorization of its newly hired employees performing work pursuant to such public contract. Any such employer who fails to comply with these provisions shall be debarred from contracting with any agency of the Commonwealth for a period up to one year. Such debarment shall cease upon the employer's registration and participation in the E-Verify program. If requested, the employer shall present a copy of their Maintain Company page from E-Verify to prove that they are enrolled in E-Verify.

VIII. METHOD OF PAYMENT:

It is not expected the Awarded Offeror will receive any compensation from VDACS since the Examinees will cover all costs for the exam services.

ATTACHMENT A

OFFEROR'S REFERENCE DATA SHEET

has your permission to		dates of service and name and ad	dress of the person the agenc
Client Name & Contact	Dates of Service	Address	Phone & Email Address

RETURN OF THIS PAGE IS REQUIRED (TAB 2)

Name of Firm:

ATTACHMENT B Proposed Cost Schedule

Note: The cost indicated below shall include all costs and expenses required to provide the services. The value indicated below will be used to evaluate the Cost of Services category in Section V. Evaluation Criteria.

Total cost charged to Examinees per exam \$	
Examinees are responsible for all costs associated with utilizing the online system responsible for any charges.	s and VDACS will not be
List any additional services and associated costs that may be offered for considera	ation below:
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

RETURN OF THIS PAGE IS REQUIRED (Tab 2)

ATTACHMENT C

Small Business Subcontracting Plan

It is the goal of the Commonwealth that over 42% of its purchases be made from small businesses. All potential offerors are required to return this document with their response.

Small Business: "Small business (including micro)" means a business which holds a certification as such by the Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (DSBSD) on the due date for proposals. This shall also include DSBSD-certified women- owned and minority-owned businesses and businesses with DSBSD service disabled veteran owned status when they also hold a DSBSD certification as a small business on the proposal due date. Currently, DSBSD offers small business certification and micro business designation to firms that qualify.

Certification applications are available through DSBSD online at www.SBSD.virginia.gov (Customer Service).

Of	fero	or Name:	
Pr	epa	rer Name:	Date:
W	ho v	vill be doing the work: □ I plan to use subcontractors	□ I plan to complete all work
lns	stru	ctions:	
	A.	If you are certified by the DSBSD as a micro/small busi	ness, complete only Section A of this form.
	B.	If you are not a DSBSD-certified small business, comreceive credit for the small business subcontracting pla portions of the contract that will be subcontracted to DSE period the initial contract period in Section B.	n evaluation criteria, the offeror shall identify the
		ferors which are small businesses themselves will recessiness participation plan evaluation criterion, and do not	•
	wit	ferors which are not certified small businesses will be a th DSBSD-certified small businesses for the initial contra e initial contract period.	
		ints will be assigned based on each offeror's proposed s nall businesses for the initial contract period as indicated	
		ection A your firm is certified by the DSBSD provide your certificat	ion number and the date of certification.
	Ce	ertification number: Ce	rtification Date:

RETURN OF THIS PAGE IS REQUIRED (Tab 5)

ATTACHMENT C

Section B

If the "I plan to use subcontractors" box is checked, populate the requested information below, per subcontractor to show your firm's plans for utilization of DSBSD-certified small businesses in the performance of this contract for the initial contract period in relation to the offeror's total price for the initial contract period. Certified small businesses include but are not limited to DSBSD-certified women-owned and minority-owned businesses and businesses with DSBSD service-disabled veteran-owned status that have also received the DSBSD small business certification. Include plans to utilize small businesses as part of joint ventures, partnerships, subcontractors, suppliers, etc. It is important to note that this proposed participation will be incorporated into the subsequent contract and will be a requirement of the contract. Failure to obtain the proposed participation dollar value or percentages may result in breach of the contract.

B. Plans for Utilization of DSBSD-Certified Small Businesses for this Procurement

Subcontract #1		
Company Name:	SBSD Cert #:	
Contact Name:	SBSD Certification:	
Contact Phone:	Contact Email:	
Value % or \$ (Initial Term):	Contact Address:	
Description of Work:		
Subcontract #2		
Company Name:	SBSD Cert #:	
Contact Name:	SBSD Certification:	
Contact Phone:	Contact Email:	
Value % or \$ (Initial Term):	Contact Address:	
Description of Work:		
Subcontract #3		
Company Name:	SBSD Cert #:	
Contact Name:	SBSD Certification:	
Contact Phone:	Contact Email:	
Value % or \$ (Initial Term):	Contact Address:	
Description of Work:		
Subcontract #4		
Company Name:	SBSD Cert #:	
	SBSD Certification:	
Contact Phone:	Contact Email:	
	Contact Address:	
Description of Work:		
(Add additional Subcontractor information lin		

RETURN OF THIS PAGE IS REQUIRED (Tab 5)

ATTACHMENT D

State Corporation Commission Form

Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) registration information.

The state corporation commission (coo) region ation mornation.
The Offeror:
□ is a corporation or other business entity with the following SCC identification number:OR-
□ is not a corporation, limited liability company, limited partnership, registered limited liability partnership, or business trust -OR-
□ is an out-of-state business entity that does not regularly and continuously maintain as part of its ordinary and customary business any employees, agents, offices, facilities, or inventories in Virginia (not counting any employees or agents in Virginia who merely solicit orders that require acceptance outside Virginia before they become contracts, and not counting any incidental presence of the Offeror in Virginia that is needed in order to assemble, maintain, and repair goods in accordance with the contracts by which such goods were sold and shipped into Virginia from Offeror's out-of-state location) -OR-
□ is an out-of-state business entity that is including with this proposal an opinion of legal counsel which accurately and completely discloses the undersigned Offeror's current contacts with Virginia and describes why those contacts do not constitute the transaction of business in Virginia within the meaning of § 13.1-757 or other similar provisions in Titles 13.1 or 50 of the <i>Code of Virginia</i> .
NOTE >> Check the following box if you have not completed any of the foregoing options but currently have pending before the SCC an application for authority to transact business in the Commonwealth of Virginia and wish to be considered for a waiver to allow you to submit the SCC identification number after the due date for proposals (the Commonwealth reserves the right to determine in its sole discretion whether to allow such waiver):

RETURN OF THIS PAGE IS REQUIRED (Tab 6)

ATTACHMENT E EXCEPTIONS

Complete the	following. Check one option only.
	rm does not take any exceptions to the Statement of Needs, General Terms and Conditions Special Terms and Conditions.
	OR
	rm takes the following exception(s): (include page and section number and description of ception).

RETURN OF THIS PAGE IS REQUIRED (TAB 7)